REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 9, 2006. Claims 1 to 44 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, 19, 28, 37 and 40 to 44 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 7 , 10 to 12, 16, 19 to 21, 25, 28 to 30, 34, 37 and 39 to 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,692,111 (Marbry), Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 22, 23, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Marbry in view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0240665 (Gu), Claims 6, 15, 24 and 33 were rejected under § 103(a) over Marbry in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0116291 (Grasso), Claims 8, 17, 26 and 35 were rejected under § 103(a) over Marbry in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,804,718 (Pang), and Claims 9, 18, 27, 36 and 38 were rejected under § 103(a) over Marbry in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0055958 (Russell). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to installing a printer and creating a locally managed instance of the printer on a workstation. According to the invention, a user inputs an identifier of the printer (which may include a communication address of the printer), whereby a printer type information is obtained from the printer by a host computer on which the printer is being installed. The host computer then refers to a database using the obtained printer type information, to obtain a print driver and printer configuration information for setting up a communication with the printer. Once the print driver and configuration information are obtained from the database, the print driver is installed and

the configured. Finally, a locally managed instance of the printer, which provides the user with the ability to change the configuration of the printer, is created on the host computer.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a computer implemented method for creating a locally managed instance of a printer on a host computer which communicates print data to the printer over a peer-to-peer network, comprising the steps of selecting an option of the host computer to create a locally managed instance of the printer on the host computer, wherein the locally managed instance provides a user with the capability of changing a configuration of the printer at the host computer, the user inputting an identifier of the printer, including a communication address of the printer, to be installed on the host computer, in response to the user inputting the identifier including the communication address of the printer, the host computer obtaining printer type information via a network by communicating with the printer using the input identifier, and determining the printer type from the obtained printer type information, based on the determined printer type information, the host computer automatically obtaining printer configuration information and print driver information, the host computer automatically configuring the printer and installing a print driver for the printer based on the obtained printer configuration information and print driver information, and the host computer creating the locally managed instance of the printer on the host computer and setting up the host computer by using the obtained printer configuration information and print driver information, wherein the locally managed instance provides a user with the capability of changing the configuration of the local printer at the host computer.

Claims 10, 19 and 28 are computer program, computer medium, and apparatus claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of, in response to a user inputting an identifier of a printer, including a communication address of the printer, a host computer obtaining printer type information via a network by communicating with the printer using the input identifier, and the host computer automatically obtaining printer configuration information and print driver information based on the printer type, automatically configuring the printer and installing a print driver for the printer based on the obtained printer configuration information and print driver information, and creating the locally managed instance of the printer on the host computer, wherein the locally managed instance provides a user with the capability of changing of the local printer at the host computer.

Marbry is discussed in detail in the background of the invention portion of the specification for the present application. (See page 2, lines 5 to 27 of the specification). As discussed in detail therein, Marbry is directed to installation of a printer on a workstation for server based printing applications and such printer instances are distinguished from locally managed instances of a local printer in the discussion provided therein. Additionally, the process in Marbry is different from that of the present invention in that, in Marbry, when the user selects an option to install a network printer, a listing of printers already installed in a print server is displayed. The user selects one of the displayed network printers, whereby the workstation then transmits the selected printer information to the print server. The print servers stores the print driver information and

configuration information for the corresponding printer, and the server then downloads the print driver and configuration information to the workstation, whereby the network printer is installed. As a result, the user can then print to the network printer.

In contrast, in the invention, a local printer is installed. That is, when the installation process is completed, the instance of the printer created on the workstation is a locally managed instance in which a user can change the configuration of the printer. The network printer of Marbry does not provide such capabilities. Moreover, in the invention, when the user inputs the printer identifier, which includes a communication address of the printer, the printer type information is obtained directly from the printer by communicating with the printer. This process is not performed in Marbry. Indeed, in Marbry, the user merely selects a printer from the list and all remaining communications to install the print driver are with the server. There are no communications with the printer to obtain the printer type information. Thus, the claims are not believed to be anticipated by Marbry.

Gu, Grasso, Pang and Russell are not seen to add anything to overcome the foregoing deficiencies of Marbry, and in particular, Gu, Grasso, Pang and Russell are not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Marbry or one another in any permissible combination, would have resulted in the features of in response to a user inputting an identifier of a printer, including a communication address of the printer, a host computer obtaining printer type information via a network by communicating with the printer using the input identifier, and the host computer automatically obtaining printer configuration information and print driver information based on the printer type, automatically configuring the printer and installing a print driver for the printer based on the obtained printer configuration information and print driver information, and creating

the locally managed instance of the printer on the host computer, wherein the locally managed instance provides a user with the capability of changing of the local printer at the host computer.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, amended independent Claims 1, 10, 19 and 28, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

In another related aspect of the invention, the database is maintained by the information processing apparatus itself. Thus, Claim 37 is directed to an information processing apparatus, comprising managing means for managing a database which manages device driver information corresponding to a peripheral device, configuration information of the device driver, and information indicating a type of the peripheral device, input means for a user to input an identifier, including a communication address, of a peripheral device to be installed on the information processing apparatus, obtaining means for obtaining information indicating the type of the peripheral device by communicating with the peripheral device by using the input identifier, first determination means for determining device driver information corresponding to the peripheral device by using the information indicating the type of the peripheral device obtained by the obtaining means by referring to the database using the information obtained by the obtaining means, second determination means for determining configuration information of the device driver information corresponding to the peripheral device by using the information indicating the type of the peripheral device by referring to the database using the information obtained by the obtaining means, and execution means for executing an install process for the device

driver information by using the device driver information determined by the first determination means.

Claims 40 and 41 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 37.

Claims 42 to 44 are along the lines of Claims 37, 40 and 41, respectively, but Claim 42 is directed more specifically to a computer implemented method for a computer which communicates with a printer, comprising the steps of managing a database in which print driver information of the printer, printer type information and printer configuration information corresponding to the print driver for a communication with the printer are managed, receiving printer identification information of the printer in response to selecting a printer object implemented by a graphical user interface, in response to receiving the printer identification information, obtaining a type of the printer by communicating with the printer, and obtaining the printer configuration information for the communication and print driver information managed in the database by using the obtained printer type information as a search key for the database, installing a print driver, and configuring the print driver to set up the communication configuration information for the communication based on the obtained printer configuration information for the communication and the print driver information.

As discussed above, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of obtaining the printer type information by communicating with the printer, and then utilizing the obtained printer type information to refer to the database to obtain the print driver and configuration information. However, with regard to Claims 37 and 40 to

44, none of Marbry, Gu, Grasso, Pang and/or Russell are seen to disclose or to suggest the information processing apparatus itself managing the database.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of independent Claims 1, 10. 19, 28, 37 and 40 to 44, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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